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5 Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the listing of claims in the application.  
each other.

1. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-  
10 feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:
- a detector adapted to detect presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen; ~~and~~  
a controller adapted to inhibit the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust  
and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions by said detector, notify the  
15 presence of dust and/or dirt via a notification unit, and allow the read-while-feed operation when removal of dust and/or dirt on the platen is detected in a state that the read-while-feed operation is inhibited,
- a document feeder for feeding an original to the platen,  
wherein said controller determines that dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed  
20 in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.
2. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an operation unit adapted to designate to clean the platen,
- wherein said controller determines that dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed when cleaning of the platen is designated from the operation unit.
- 25 3. Cancelled

- 5     4.     (original)     The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, said controller controls to perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected.
5.     (original)     The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller  
10 controls said detector to perform detection after a read-while-feed operation.
6.     (original)     The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said controller notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen via the notification unit right after the detection.
7.     (original)     The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if said detector  
15 detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said controller notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen via the notification unit in advance of a reading operation of an original.
8.     (original)     The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the notification unit comprises a display device, and the apparatus further comprises an operation  
20 unit adapted to designate to clear the displayed notification of the presence of the dust or dirt.
9.     (original)     The image reading apparatus according to claim 5 further comprising a memory adapted to, when said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, store the position having no dust or dirt, wherein said controller controls to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

5 10. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

and wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said controller sets to perform the stationary reading operation.

10 11. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said controller turns on a flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting the read-while-feed operation, and turns off the flag upon allowing the read-while feed operation.

12. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 11 further comprising a flag determination unit for determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-  
15 while-feed operation,

wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

and wherein said controller controls to perform the stationary reading operation  
20 when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is on, and controls to perform the read-while-feed operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is off.

13. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an operation unit adapted to designate disabling of said detector,

wherein said controller disables said detector in response to the designation by  
25 said operation unit.

5 14. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a size detector adapted to detect a size of an original,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and said controller controls said detector to perform the detection at a plurality of predetermined positions depending upon the detected size  
10 of the original.

15 15. (original) An image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:

a detector adapted to detect presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;  
15 a controller adapted to inhibit the read-while feed operation in a case where said detector detects dust and/or dirt at all of a plurality of predetermined positions, and, in a case where said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, control to perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected; and

an operation unit adapted to designate disabling of said detector,  
20 wherein said controller disables said detector in response to the designation by said operation unit.

16. (original) An image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:

25 a detector adapted to detect presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen; and

- 5                   a controller adapted to inhibit the read-while feed operation in a case where said detector detects dust and/or dirt at all of a plurality of predetermined positions, and, in a case where said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, control to perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected,
- 10                   wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and said controller controls said detector to perform the detection at a plurality of predetermined positions set in accordance with the size of the original.
17.   (original)    The image reading apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said  
15 controller controls said detector to perform detection after a read-while-feed operation.
18.   (original)    The image reading apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising a notification unit for notifying presence of dust or dirt on the platen if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions.
19.   (original)    The image reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein if said  
20 detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said notification unit notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen right after the detection.
20.   (original)    The image reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said notification unit notifies the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen in advance of a reading operation of an  
25 original.

5. 21. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the notification unit comprises a display device, and the apparatus further comprises an operation unit adapted to designate to clear the displayed notification of the presence of the dust or dirt.

22. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 16 further comprising a memory adapted to, when said detector does not detect dust and/or dirt at least at one of the  
10 plurality of predetermined positions, store the position having no dust or dirt in relation with a size of a document detected by said size detector,

wherein said controller controls to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

23. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a  
15 fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,  
and wherein if said detector detects dust or dirt at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, said controller sets to perform the stationary reading operation.

24. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said controller turns on a flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting  
20 the read-while-feed operation, and turns off the flag upon allowing the read-while feed operation.

25. (original) The image reading apparatus according to claim 24 further comprising a flag determination unit for determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation,

wherein said apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in  
25 which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

5                   and wherein said controller controls to perform the stationary reading operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is on, and controls to perform the read-while-feed operation when said flag determination unit determines that the flag is off.

26.   (currently amended) A control method for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by  
10 an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:

                  detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt. on a platen;

                  inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions;

                  notifying the presence of dust and/or dirt via a notification unit in a case where  
15 dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions;

                  determining whether or not dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed in a state that the read-while feed operation is inhibited; and

                  allowing the read-while-feed operation when removal of dust and/or dirt on the platen is determined,

20                   wherein the image reading apparatus comprises a document feeder for feeding an original to the platen, and it is determined that dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.

27.   (original)    The control method according to claim 26, wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate to clean the platen,



5                    wherein it is determined that dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed when  
cleaning of the platen is designated from the operation unit.

28.      Cancelled

29.      (original)      The control method according to claim 26 further comprising controlling,  
when no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, to  
10      perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected.

30.      (original)      The control method according to claim 26, wherein the detection of dust  
and/or dirt is performed after a read-while-feed operation.

31.      (original)      The control method according to claim 26, wherein the notification of the  
presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed right after the detection.

15      32.      (original)      The control method according to claim 26, wherein the notification of the  
presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed in advance of a reading operation of an  
original.

33.      (original)      The control method according to claim 26, wherein the notification of the  
presence of the dust or dirt on the platen comprises displaying, and the image reading apparatus  
20      comprises an operation unit adapted to designate to clear the displayed notification of the  
presence of the dust or dirt.

34.      (original)      The control method according to claim 30 further comprising:

                         storing, when no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of  
predetermined positions, the position having no dust or dirt; and

25                    controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

- 5 35. (original) The control method according to claim 26, wherein the image reading apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,
- further comprising setting, if dust or dirt is detected at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the stationary reading operation.
- 10 36. (original) The control method according to claim 26 further comprising:
- turning on a flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting the read-while-feed operation; and
- turning off the flag upon allowing the read-while-feed operation.
37. (original) The control method according to claim 36, therein the image reading
- 15 apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor, further comprising:
- determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation;
- controlling to perform the stationary reading operation when the flag is on; and
- 20 controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation when the flag is off.
38. (original) The control method according to claim 26, wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate skipping the detection of dust and/or dirt,
- further comprising skipping the detection of dust and/or dirt in response to the
- 25 designation by said operation unit.

5 39. (original) The control method according to claim 26 further comprising detecting a size of an original,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is performed at a plurality of predetermined positions depending upon the detected size of the  
10 original.

40. (original) A control method for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position, comprising:

detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;  
15 inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions; and

controlling, in a case where no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected;

20 wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate skipping the detection of dust and/or dirt, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is skipped in response to the designation by said operation unit.

41. A control method for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed  
25 at a fixed position, comprising:

5 detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;  
inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are  
detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions; and  
performing, in a case where no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the  
plurality of predetermined positions, the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust  
10 or dirt is detected,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be  
read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is  
performed at a plurality of predetermined positions set in accordance with the size of the  
original.

15 42. (original) The control method according to claim 41, 'herein the detection of dust  
and/or dirt is performed after a read-while-feed operation.

43. (original) The control method according to claim 41, further comprising notifying  
presence of dust or dirt In the platen if dust or dirt are detected at all of he plurality of  
predetermined positions.

20 44. (original) The control method according to claim 43, herein the notification of the  
presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed right after the detection.

45. (original) The control method according to claim 18, herein the notification of the  
presence of the dust or dirt on the platen is performed in advance of a reading operation of an  
original

5 46. (original) The control method according to claim 18, wherein the notification of the presence of the dust or dirt on the platen comprises displaying, and the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate to clear the displayed notification of the presence of the dust or dirt.

47. (original) The control method according to claim 41 further comprising:

10 storing, when no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, the position having no dust or dirt in relation with a detected size of a document; and

controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation at the stored position.

48. (original) The control method according to claim 41, wherein the image reading  
15 apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor,

further comprising setting, if dust or dirt is detected at all of the plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the stationary reading operation.

49. (original) The control method according to claim 41 further comprising:

20 turning on a flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation upon inhibiting the read-while-feed operation; and

turning off the flag upon allowing the read-while-feed operation.

50. (original) The control method according to claim 49, wherein the image reading  
apparatus is capable of performing a stationary reading operation in which an original is held at a  
25 fixed position on the platen and read while moving an image sensor, further comprising:

- 5 determining on/off of the flag indicative of inhibition of the read-while-feed operation;  
controlling to perform the stationary reading operation when the flag is on; and  
controlling to perform the read-while-feed operation when the flag is off.

51. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable  
medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a control  
10 method for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed  
operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed  
position said product including:

first computer readable program code means for detecting presence/absence of  
dust and/or dirt on a platen;

15 second computer readable program code means for inhibiting the read-while-feed  
operation in a case there dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined  
positions;

third computer readable program code means for notifying the presence of dust  
and/or dirt via a notification unit in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality  
20 of predetermined positions;

fourth computer readable program code means for determining whether or not  
dust and/or dirt on the platen is removed in a state that the read-while-feed operation is inhibited;  
and

fifth computer readable program code means for flowing the read-while-feed  
25 operation when removal of dust and/or dirt on the platen is determined,

5                   wherein the image reading apparatus comprises a document feeder for feeding an original to the platen, and said fourth computer readable program code means determines that dust/or dirt on the platen is removed in response to an opening operation of the document feeder.

52.   (original)     A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a control method  
10   or controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position said product including:

                    first computer readable program code means for detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;

15                   second computer readable program code means for inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions; and

                    third computer readable program code means for controlling, in a case where no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, to perform the  
20   read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected;

                    wherein the image reading apparatus comprises an operation unit adapted to designate skipping the detection of dust and/or dirt, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is skipped in response to the designation by said operation unit.

5 53. (original) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for a control method for controlling an image reading apparatus capable of performing a read-while-feed operation in which an original is read while being fed by an image sensor placed at a fixed position said product including:

10 first computer readable program code means for detecting presence/absence of dust and/or dirt on a platen;

second computer readable program code means for inhibiting the read-while-feed operation in a case where dust and/or dirt are detected at all of a plurality of predetermined positions; and

15 third computer readable program code means for performing, in a case where no dust or dirt is detected at least at one of the plurality of predetermined positions, the read-while-feed operation at the position where no dust or dirt is detected,

wherein plural sets of positions are prepared for different sizes of originals to be read as said plurality of predetermined positions, and the detection of dust and/or dirt is  
20 performed at a plurality of predetermined positions set in accordance with the size of the original.